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Radioterapia
Oncologica

del carcinoma prostatico ad alto rischio

Hypofractionation in high risk prostate cancer: Controversies

Programma Prostata, Direzione Scientifica
Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milano



FONDAZIONE IRCCS
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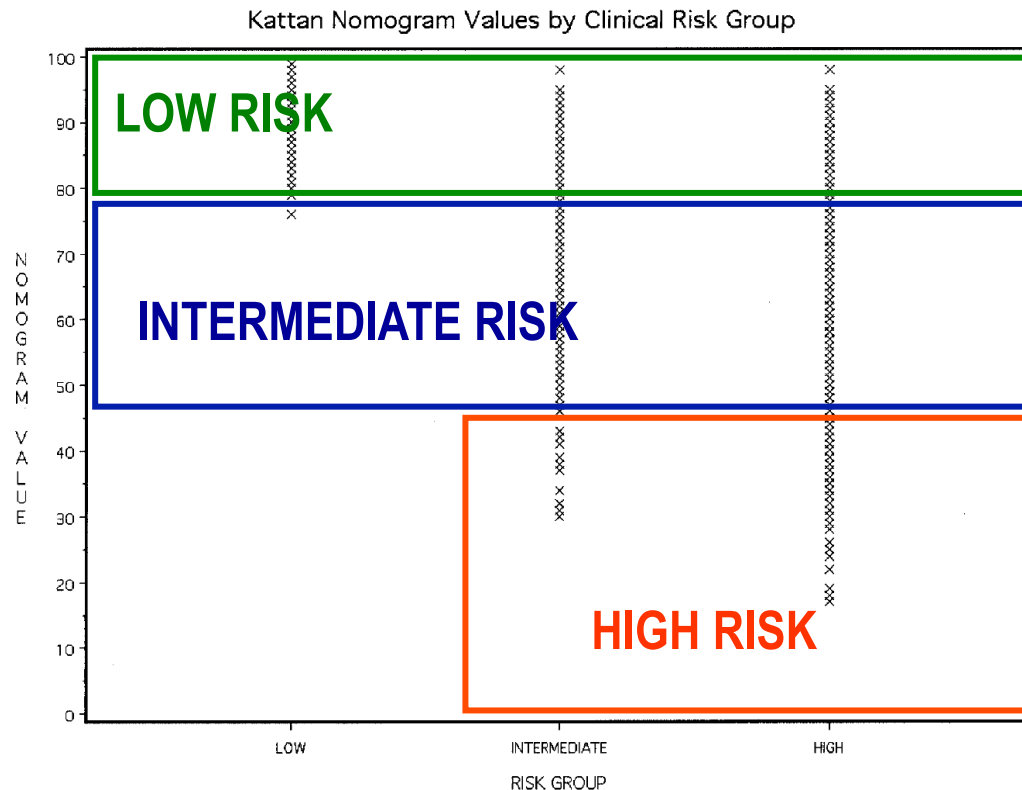
PROGRAMMAPROSTATA

Outline: Critical Issues

1. High risk class: clinical heterogeneity
2. Definition of hypofractionation
3. Evaluation of treatment outcome
4. Hypoxic cores in high risk prostate cancer
5. α/β value(s)
6. Late toxicity concern
7. FCCC ® Trial: HIMRT vs CIMRT

Critical Issue 1: High risk class: clinical heterogeneity

High risk class includes a highly heterogeneous group of cancers. This introduces a potential confounding variable in the evaluation of clinical results. (Gerber et al, Eu Urol, 2010; Tendulkar et al, IJROBP, 2011)



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ABILITY OF 2 PRETREATMENT RISK ASSESSMENT METHODS TO PREDICT PROSTATE CANCER RECURRENCE AFTER RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY: DATA FROM CaPSURE

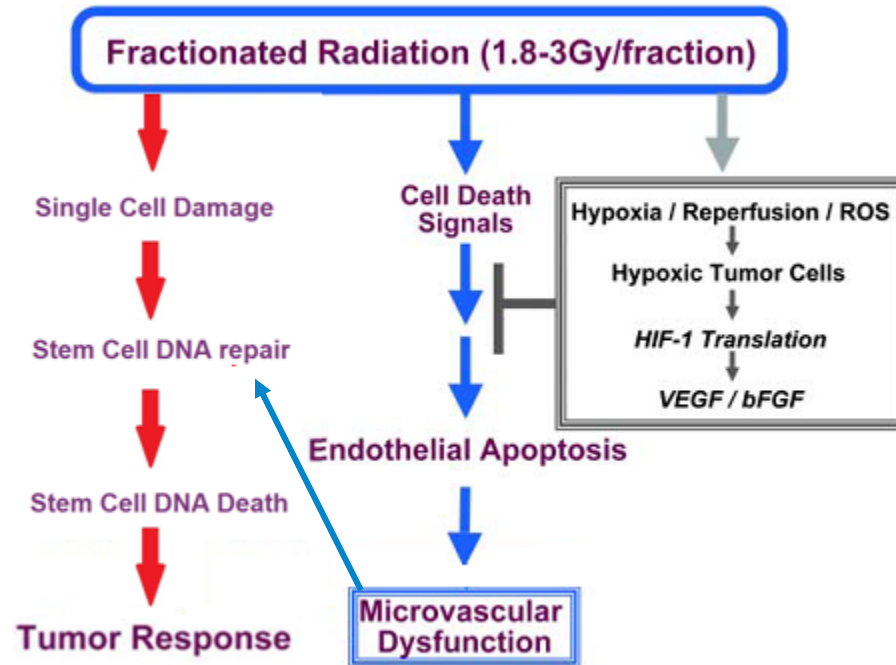
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Critical Issue 2: Definition of hypofractionation

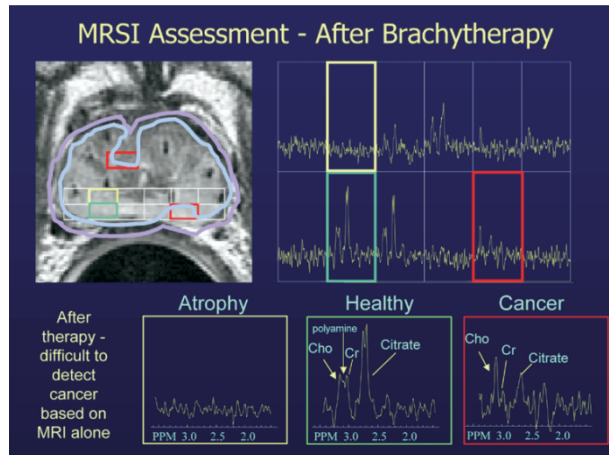
We should clearly distinguish between:

1. hypofractionation schemes involving $\approx 2.2-3$ Gy/fr, where clonogenic cell killing is the dominant effect of radiation, which is well described by the LQ model

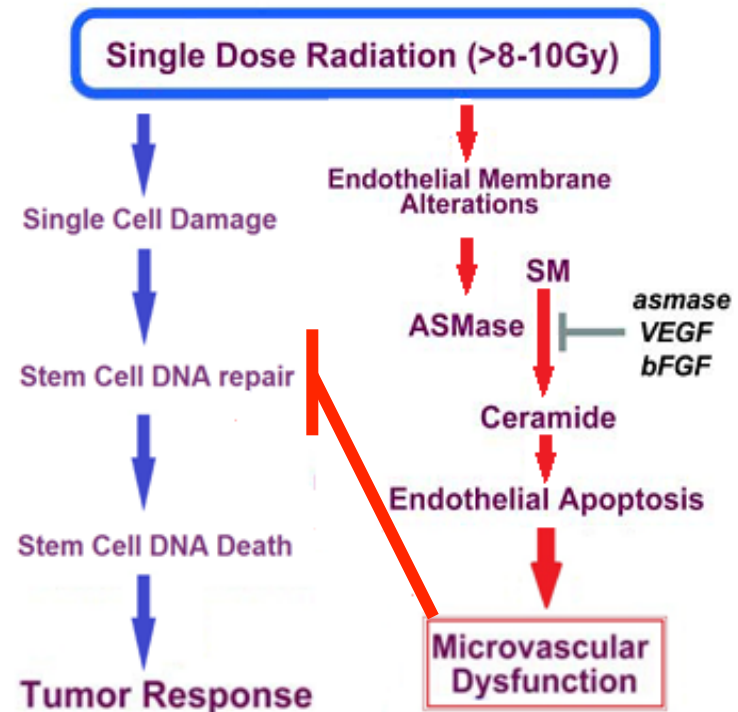


Critical Issue 2: Definition of hypofractionation

2. and regimens involving very high doses/fr (>8 Gy), where stromal damage is the dominant effect, α/β ratio probably plays a minor role (if any) and tissue injury can be described as a form of radio-ablation involving either a clonogenic cell killing and a **preminent vascular default**



Pickett et al, IJROBP 2006



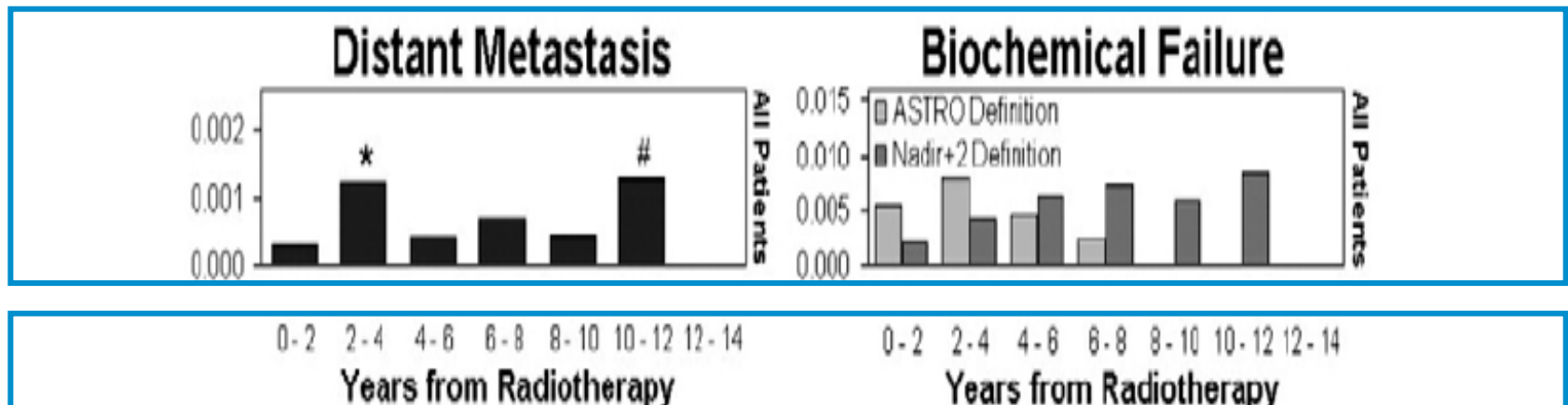
Fuks and Kolesnick, Cancer Cell 2005
 McBride et al. ASTRO 2011
 Kolesnick, ASTRO 2011

Critical Issue 3: Evaluation of treatment outcome

Dealing with radiotherapy efficacy (and evaluating α/β ratio), histologically confirmed **local control/failure** should be the **optimal end point**.

Unfortunately, most clinical **trials do not give such information**, biochemical failure being largely used as a surrogate for local control/failure.

The impossibility of distinguishing between distant and local failure introduces a significant uncertainty in the analytic process and consequently in the α/β estimates.

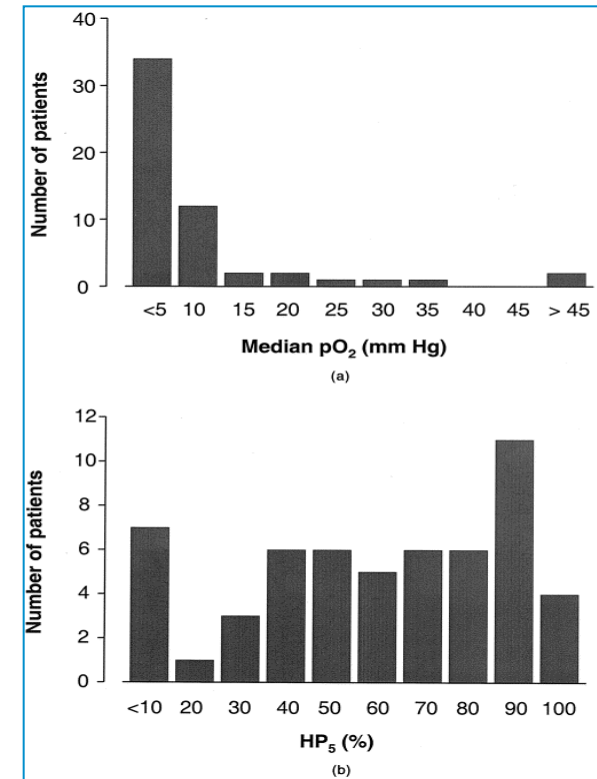


Critical Issue 4: Hypoxic cores in HR prostate cancer

1. Direct **evidence** that **hypoxia** does exist in **prostate cancer** and that it **impacts** on **radiotherapy failures** as shown by pre-clinical and clinical investigations.

Evidences of the presence of hypoxia in PCa:

- Eppendorf (Movsas et al, 1999; 2002; Parker et al, 2004, Turaka et al., 2011, Bristow, ASTRO 2011)
- PET (Milosevic et al, 2004)
- Neutron vs photon experience (Forman et al, 2004)
- Pimonidazole (Carnell, 2006)
- HIF dependent biomarkers (Boddy, 2005; Vergas and Parker, 2008)
- AD effect (Milosevic et al, 2006)
- MR BOLD imaging (Hoskin, 2007)

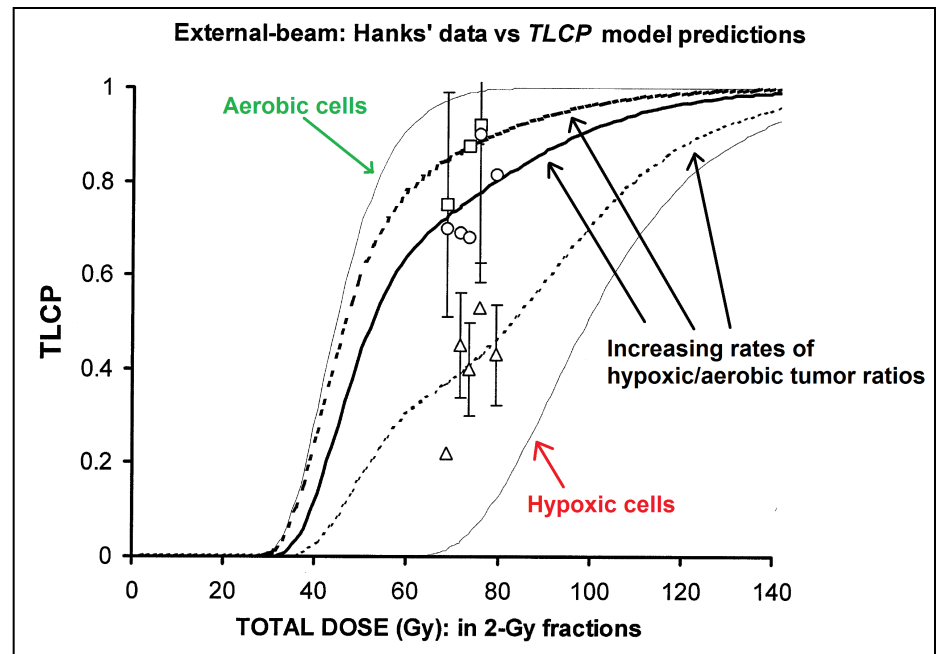


Critical Issue 4: Hypoxic cores in HR prostate cancer

2. Recently shown that **hypoxic regions increase from low to high risk disease** (Bristow, ASTRO, 2011).

3. Consequently, a **larger α/β value for high risk patients** should be expected, α/β value for hypoxic clonogens being about 6 times higher than for well-oxygenated ones.

PSA levels of ≤ 10 ng/ml ($\square\square$)
PSA levels of 10–20 ng/ml ($\circ\circ$)
PSA levels of ≥ 20 ng/ml ($\triangle\triangle$)



Critical Issue 5: α/β values

Brenner and Hall (1999)	1.5 (0.8-2.2)
King and Mayo (2000)	4.96
Brenner and Hall (2000)	2.1
King and Fowler (2001)	1.8-2.0
Fowler et al. (2001)	1.49 (1.25-1.76)
Kal et al. (2003)	3.1-3.9
Wang et al. (2003)	3.1 (+/- 0.5)
Nahum et al. (2003)	8.3 (oxygenated cells)
Nahum et al. (2003)	15.5 (hypoxic cells)
Lindsay et al. (2003)	1.1-12.3 (BCT)
Valdagni et al. (2005)	8.3 (0.7-16.0)
Lukka et al. (2005)	1.12 (-3.3-5.6)
Williams et al. (2006)	2.6-3.7 (6.5 IR- 7.6 HR)
Mirabell et al. (2009)	1.3-1.8
Pollack et al. (2009)	6.5 or higher
Proust-Lima et al. (2010)	1.55
Shaffer et al. (2010)	5.2 - >30
Arcangeli et al. (2010) ®	1.4 HR
Valdagni et al. (2011)	3.2 LIR – 9 HR
Pollack et al. (2011) ®	5.3 (IR – HR)



$\alpha/\beta > 5$ Gy



HR: $\alpha/\beta > 7.5$ Gy



HR: $\alpha/\beta \sim 1.5$ Gy



Critical Issue 6: Late toxicity concern

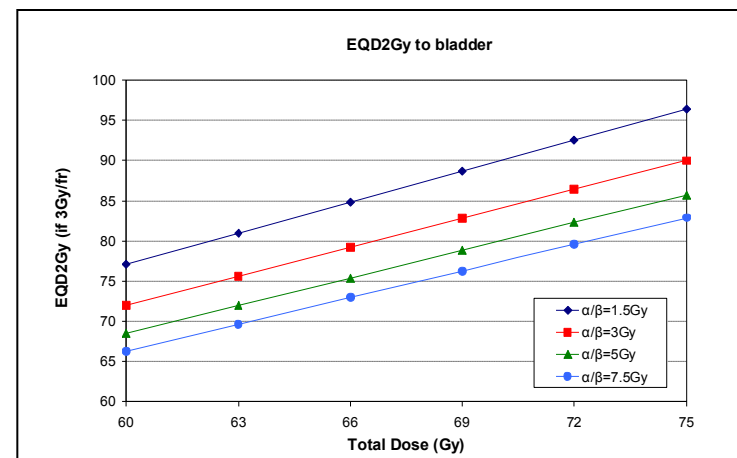
1. As clearly stated by **Quantec** (IJROBP, 2010), **definitive information on α/β of organs at risk** (rectum, bladder, penile bulb?, bowel loops) are **still lacking** and consequently, no reliable **information of equivalent doses for late toxicity** are **available**

2. With hypofractionation, an increase in acute toxicity has to be expected and it might be reasonable to note an increase in late toxicity due to a **sequential effect** between acute and late injury (Heemsbergen et al, IJROBP 2006, Fellin et al, IJROBP 2008, Valdagni et al., IJROBP, 2011)

Critical Issue 6: Late toxicity concern

3. Consequently, dose-volume constraints for late toxicity should be carefully considered, e.g.

- ❑ **late faecal incontinence** is related to dose bath at $\approx 40\text{Gy}$ at 2Gy/fr and this translates into a dose bath constraint of $\approx 30\text{Gy}$ at $2.5\text{-}3\text{ Gy/fr}$ (with $\alpha/\beta=1.5\sim 5\text{Gy}$)
- ❑ **GU toxicity** seems to be essentially related to the dose to **the bladder neck**, which is the **prescribed dose** ($\approx 80\text{ Gy}$ equivalent doses, with $\alpha/\beta=1.5\sim 5\text{Gy}$). So far, despite the sophistication in technology, no attempt to sculpt the dose around the bladder neck

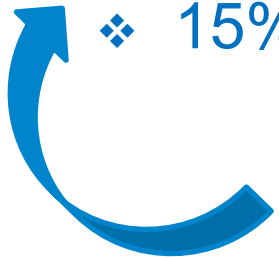


FCCC Hypofractionated Trial (Intermediate/High Risk)

Pollack et al, ASTRO, 2011

Estimated BF at 4 yrs after last patient entered:

- ❖ 30% using 76 Gy (CIMRT)
- ❖ 15% using 2.0 Gy equivalent of ~84 Gy (70.2 Gy - 2.7 Gy in 26 fr) (HIMRT)

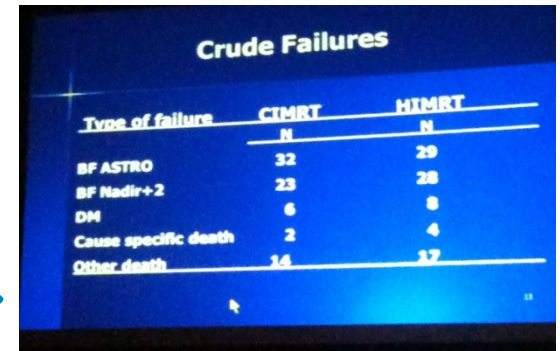


Statistics

- **Estimated BF at 4 yrs after last patient entered**
 - 30% using 76 Gy
 - 15% using 2.0 Gy equivalent of ~84 Gy
- **Sample size of n=300**
 - 90% power to detect a hazard ratio of 0.46
 - Significance of 0.05 using two-sided log rank test

FCCC Hypofractionated Trial: Results

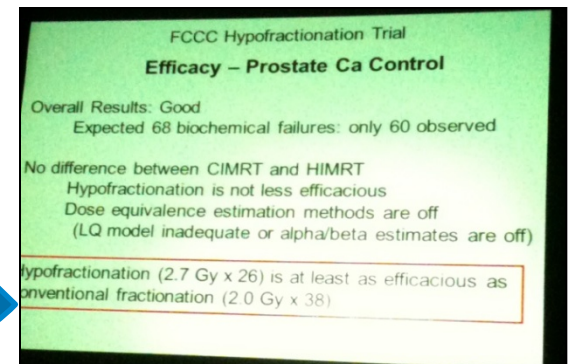
1. Hypofractionation (HIMRT): **more BF at 5yr** (28 vs 23, Phoenix def)



Type of failure	Crude Failures	
	CIMRT N	HIMRT N
BF ASTRO	32	29
BF Nadir+2	23	28
DM	6	8
Cause specific death	2	4
Other death	14	17

2. Failure and α/β : HIMRT not superior to CIMRT, suggesting α/β ratio may be **higher than 1.5** (IR+HR: 5.3 Gy)

“Dose equivalence estimation methods are off “ (Kupelian, ASTRO 2011)



FCCC Hypofractionation Trial
Efficacy – Prostate Ca Control

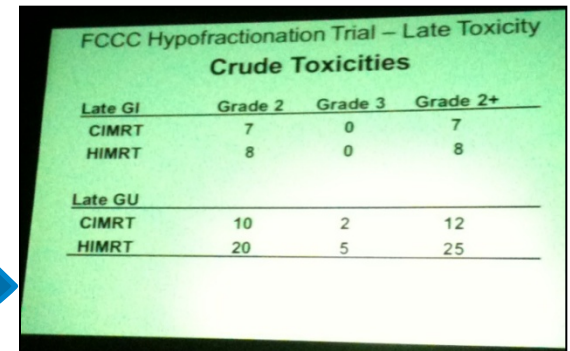
Overall Results: Good
Expected 68 biochemical failures: only 60 observed

No difference between CIMRT and HIMRT
Hypofractionation is not less efficacious
Dose equivalence estimation methods are off
(LQ model inadequate or alpha/beta estimates are off)

Hypofractionation (2.7 Gy x 26) is at least as efficacious as conventional fractionation (2.0 Gy x 38)

3. Late toxicity: **GU Toxicity** significantly higher with HIMRT

(Grade ≥ 2 : 12% vs 25%, $p < 0.05$)

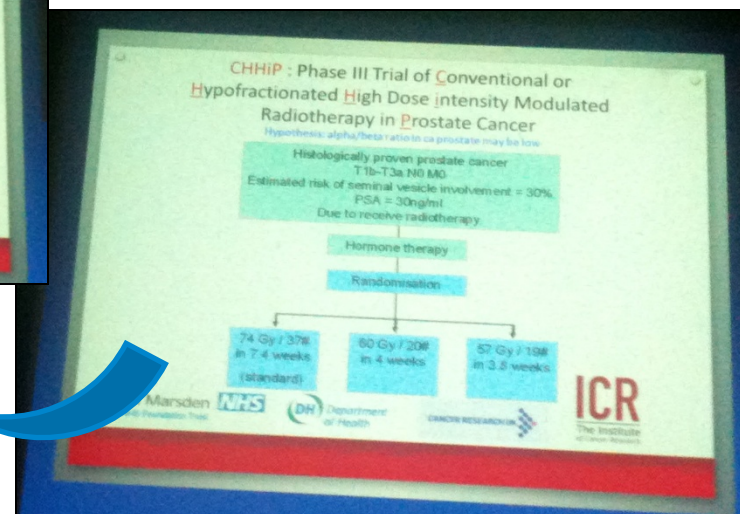
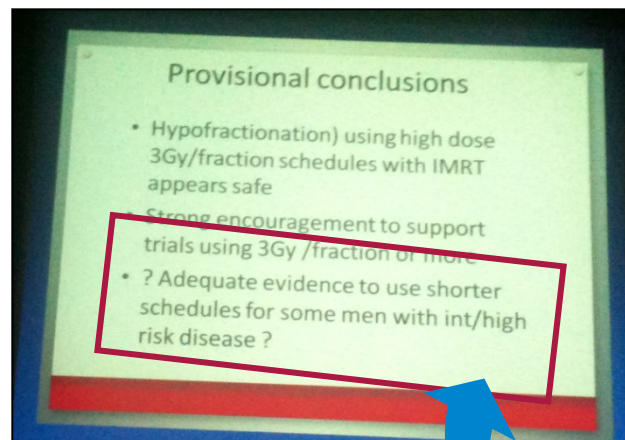


Late GI	Crude Toxicities		
	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 2+
CIMRT	7	0	7
HIMRT	8	0	8

Late GU	Crude Toxicities		
	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 2+
CIMRT	10	2	12
HIMRT	20	5	25

Conclusions

1. *Difficult to state a conclusive point about the use of moderate hypofractionation in high risk prostate cancer patients: **FCCC**® trial (IR & HR disease) failed to prove hypo superiority over conventional fractionation and is failing to prove α/β ratio is 1.5 Gy in high risk disease*



Conclusions

- 2. Particular attention should be paid to dose-volume constraints for OaR, and IGRT should be recommended*
- 3. GU tox appears to be, and probably will be, a real concern*
- 4. Lacking EB on low α/β in high (and intermediate) risk patients, a moderate hypofractionation (e.g. 74.2 Gy, 2.65 Gy/fr, equivalent to 88Gy if $\alpha/\beta=1.5$ Gy and to 78.2 Gy if $\alpha/\beta=10$ Gy) seems to have a good rationale: useful in reducing treatment time (28 fractions) and sufficiently safe*
- 5. Radioablative doses (>8 Gy/fraction) are opening a new radiobiological era but no data on clinical efficacy (and toxicity) are available in high risk patients*

